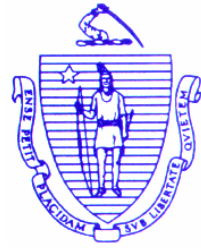




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September 19, 2003
Marine Fisheries Advisory

ATLANTIC SEA HERRING SPAWNING CLOSURE EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st.

Consistent with 322 CMR 9.02, Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) will enact the annual Atlantic sea herring spawning closure whereby *effective September 21st it shall be unlawful to land or possess sea herring caught from the MA/NH Spawning Area. The last day of the closure is October 18. The closure may be extended if Marine Fisheries determines that spawning is still occurring.* This is one of a few spawning closures in the Gulf of Maine timed to anticipate when herring begin their autumn spawning.

Exceptions:

- During the closure it will be lawful to land herring taken from this area provided "spawn" herring comprise less than 20% of the amount of herring in possession.
- For incidental catch in other fisheries, no more than 2,000 lbs. per trip of sea herring in any spawning condition may be caught from this area.

Please note that the Saturday and Sunday prohibition on landing and possession of herring (regardless of spawning condition) caught in management area 1A is still in place (322 CMR 9.04).

Definitions:

Spawn herring means mature sea herring in gonad stages V and VI.

Spawning area boundaries: begin at the intersection of 43°30' N latitude and the Maine coast, then in a SW direction along the coast to the intersection of 70°00' W longitude with the Cape Cod shoreline, then north along 70°00'W to its intersection with 43°30' N latitude, then along the 43°30'N line back to the coast.

Contact *Marine Fisheries* at 617.626.1520 or visit our website at
www.mass.gov/marinefisheries for further information